



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Louisville District

Environmental Update

Former Kincheloe Air Force Base

July 2002

New Municipal Wells Win Top Award

The Kinross Township Department of Public Works recently received the award for *The Best Drinking Water in the Upper Peninsula* by the American Water Works Association, an organization dedicated to delivering safe drinking water to its customers. The water supply for the Kinross Township beat 14 other entries in the competition. Seven regions around Michigan will be judged in the state competition in September on Mackinac Island.



The well house, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provides the Kinross Township with a supply of safe drinking water.

Environmental Investigation

In October 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through its contractor, Montgomery Watson Harza completed construction of a new well house which included two new wells each 220 feet deep. The wells serve as the primary sources of drinking water for over 6,500 residents. The two new wells, Township Wells 6 and 7 are capable of producing 900 gallons per minute when operating at capacity. The upgrade of another well, Township Well 5 assures the community a greater supply of quality drinking water. The well house was transferred to the Kinross Township in April 2001.

The well house was constructed due to low-level contaminants of trichloroethylene (TCE) found in the groundwater during the ongoing environmental investigation of the Formerly Used Defense Site being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps began the field investigation in 1991 and detected TCE in two of the Township's wells. The level of contamination in the Township's wells never exceeded the federal drinking water standards.

**KINROSS
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**



**Voted the Best Drinking Water
in Michigan's Upper Peninsula!**

MICHIGAN

Current Environmental Activities

Fire Training Area

The Fire Training Area, located near the southern end of the main runway at the former Kincheloe Air Force Base, was the site for fire training exercises. During the exercises, liquid flammable materials were used to promote burning and some of the flammable materials infiltrated the soils. The amount of liquid flammable material used is unknown.

In December 2001, a nine month study began using a modified design of the soil vapor extraction/air sparging system to test the efficiency of removing volatile organic compounds from the soil. In August, a vapor sample was collected from the system to evaluate the current status of the system. The pilot study will continue until September, then the system design modifications will be evaluated for their efficiency in removing the contaminants from the soil.

Landfill Investigation

There are five sites of concern under investigation which have been identified as previous landfills. **Landfill 1** is located near the northern boundary between the former Kinross Manufacturing Company and the north bog. The landfill was used for waste disposal from 1952 to 1977 and consists of a series of trenches and pits where materials were placed and routinely burned to reduce the volume and covered with soil.

Landfill 2 is approximately 15 acres in the east central portion of the former base. The site was used for waste disposal from 1942 to 1950 and again from 1960 to 1967.

Landfill 3 is located on the eastern edge of the Air Force Base approximately .5 miles from Dukes Lake. The site is about one acre and was used during the late 1950s to dispose of electron tubes in drums and covered in soil.

Landfill 4 is about 18 acres and is located in the northwestern part of the former base. It was used for disposal during the 1960s and 1970s.

Landfill 5 covers 5 acres and is located in the western boundary of the former base. This landfill was used for the disposal of building debris during the base closure. The Township used the landfill for municipal wastes until the early 1980s. In 2000, concrete and asphalt debris from the airport construction activities were hauled to the gravel pit east of the landfill.

The Corps of Engineers has fieldwork scheduled to begin in August 2002 to conduct additional sampling and soil borings around the perimeter of the landfills. Following the results of the fieldwork, a document will be prepared that will outline alternatives to ensure protection of the environment.

Fuel Storage Area

A removal of raw fuel or free product from the water table is taking place at the Fuel Storage Area. The removal action includes an automated activity designed to bail the free product from three to five groundwater monitoring wells. The project also includes the investigation of the extent of the free product on the water table and the extent of groundwater contamination.



The US Army Corps of Engineers displayed information about the well house construction and served samples of the award winning water at the Kinross-Kincheloe AFB Reunion July 18.

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